

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device for connection with relative and controlled sealing between a pipe (1) and a ceramic tube (7) comprising:
 - a cylindrical chamber (5) that is attached in a sealed manner to said pipe, whereby one end of the ceramic tube is placed inside said chamber,
 - sealing means (3, 3') ~~that consist of~~ comprising at least two sets of fixtures (3, 3') ~~that are~~ placed in the annular space between the ceramic tube and the chamber,
 - a crosspiece (4) ~~that is~~ interposed between the two sets,
 - compression means (6) of said fixtures,
 - and means for injection (8) of a fluid between the two sets of sealing fixtures so as to apply a pressure differential that is determined on each of the fixtures.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 1, in which the end of the ceramic tube is separated from the pipe by a stop-forming part (2).
3. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 1, in which said chamber comprises a double wall that defines an inside space (19) in which a coolant circulates.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 3, in which said inside space communicates with space (9) between fixtures.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 1, in which the chamber is ~~made of~~ comprises ~~heat-resistant refractory steel with a high heat resistance.~~
6. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 1, in which the ceramic tube is ~~made of~~ comprises sealed ceramic, ~~such as~~ selected from the group consisting of: silica-alumina, mullite, alumina, zirconia, ~~or~~ and silicon carbide, ~~and preferably silicon carbide.~~
7. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 2, in which the stop-forming part ~~consists of~~ comprises a compressed silicate-type material ~~that is~~ reinforced by fibers ~~that have~~ having a compression rupture strength that is less than that of the ceramic tube and that of the cylindrical envelope.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 1, in which the sealing fixtures ~~consist of silico-aluminous~~ comprises silica-alumina-, alumina-, zirconia- or graphite-type fibers.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 8, in which the fibers of the fixtures ~~are~~ have been impregnated with a ceramic material or a metal material.
10. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 1, in which at least one of the sealing fixtures ~~consists of~~ comprises ceramic powder.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 1, in which said fluid is ~~water~~ vapor steam.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 1, in which said pipe is comprises a tube ~~that is~~ identical to said ceramic tube, and in which the ends of each of the ceramic tubes are placed in said chamber and linked to the chamber by identical sealing means.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method comprising providing a device according to claim 1, and further comprising, for controlling the sealed connection of the device according to claim 1, in which the following stages are carried out:

- measuring the pressure difference between the reagent that is present in the pipe and said fluid ~~is measured~~,
- adjusting the pressure difference ~~is adjusted~~ to keep a flushing leakage toward the inside of the tube.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Application of the~~ A device according to claim 1 to installations of incorporated in a steam-cracking, pyrolysis, catalytic dehydrogenation or ~~vaporeforming~~ steam-reforming installation.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Application of the~~ A device according to claim 14 ~~to~~ incorporated in a steam-cracking installation in which the reagent has a high operating at a temperature, preferably between 600 and 1200°C.

16. (New) A device according to claim 6, wherein said ceramic tube comprises silicon carbide.

17. (New) A device according to claim 3, in which the end of the ceramic tube is separated from the pipe by a stop-forming part (2).

18. (New) A device according to claim 4, in which the end of the ceramic tube is separated from the pipe by a stop-forming part (2).

19. (New) A device according to claim 18, in which said pipe comprises a tube identical to said ceramic tube, and in which the ends of each of the ceramic tubes are placed in said chamber and linked to the chamber by identical sealing means.

20. (New) A connection device suitable for providing controlled sealing between a pipe and a ceramic tube, said device comprising:

a cylindrical chamber (5) which at one of its ends is attachable in a sealed manner to a pipe, said chamber also having an opening at the other end to permit placement of one end of a ceramic tube inside said chamber,

at least two sets of sealing fixtures (3, 3') positioned within said chamber for contacting the outer surface of a ceramic tube positioned inside said chamber, a crosspiece (4) interposed between said two sets of sealing fixtures, means for compressing (6) said two sets of sealing fixtures, and an inlet port (8) for injection of a fluid between said two sets of sealing fixtures.